



NAME: COMMANDER ANDREW K. MEAGHER

JOB TITLE: REGIONAL PHARMACY EXECUTIVE

AGENCY: UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

EDUCATION/DEGREES/CERTIFICATES/INSTITUTIONS:

- Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy (1993), University of New Mexico
- Master of Science in Health Sciences with a specialization in Emergency and Disaster Management (2009), Touro University International

CURRENT JOB DESCRIPTION:

Commander (CDR) Andrew Meagher currently serves as the Regional Pharmacy Executive at the Kaehler Memorial Medical Clinic located on United States Coast Guard (USCG) Air Station Cape Cod military reservation. The clinic is located on a military reservation along with US Army National Guard and US Air Force Air National Guard units whose members are impaneled to the clinic. Prescriptions are provided for all uniformed service beneficiaries by both military and civilian providers, including active duty NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) officers.

CDR Meagher is the Secretary for the Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee at his primary clinic and another clinic in his Area of Responsibility (AOR), and a member of the primary clinic's Quality Assurance Focus Group and the Patient Advisory Committee. In addition, CDR Meagher reviews and maintains the pharmacy policy and procedures manuals for collateral duty units (14) in his AOR including several USCG Cutter Sickbays, several USCG Ashore Sickbays, and the USCG Health, Safety and Work-Life Field Office Boston Clinic Pharmacy. CDR Meagher is also responsible for procuring, maintaining and distributing all pharmaceutical agents and Chemical/Biologic/Nuclear/Radiological (CBNR) antidotes for units in his AOR. In addition, CDR Meagher is intimately involved with contingency operation planning with local and state emergency management and public health departments.

QUALIFYING SKILLS FOR CURRENT POSITION:

CDR Meagher attributes his qualifying skills to his extensive experience with the Indian Health Service (IHS) and Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP), as well as his extracurricular participation with local, state and national disaster response organizations. The opportunities that the Public Health Service (PHS) has offered CDR Meagher have included the ability to serve in different agencies, to live in various geographic areas, and to practice under a variety of public health agendas; these experiences have enriched his professional career as a USPHS Commissioned Corps officer.

REASONS FOR CHOOSING THE USPHS AS A CAREER:

As a student in his last year of pharmacy school, CDR Meagher seized an opportunity to work at the Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO). Coincidentally, on one particular JCAHO inspection of the IHS Northern Navajo Medical Center in Shiprock, New Mexico, CDR Meagher observed a high level of clinical care delivered by Commissioned Corps pharmacists that he found very appealing; it was an integrated and collaborative approach to health care seldom seen elsewhere.

CDR Meagher remains committed to the vision and goals of the US Public Health Service because of the numerous professional opportunities and rewards. He firmly believes it is a great way to experience and serve our country's rich cultural diversity while having the opportunity and flexibility to practice pharmacy in a variety of professional environments.

PREVIOUS USPHS ASSIGNMENTS:

CDR Meagher started his eventful PHS career in 1996 at the JCAHO accredited IHS Albuquerque Indian Hospital in Albuquerque, New Mexico. As an Assistant Staff Pharmacist, CDR Meagher practiced with other pharmacists in both general inpatient and ambulatory care settings. During his 2 years of service he acquired valuable expertise in a number of areas, including sterile products compounding, pharmacokinetic consults, and multidisciplinary protocol development.

In 1996, CDR Meagher transferred to the Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care (AAAHC) accredited IHS Not-Tsoo Gah-Nee Indian Health Center in Fort Hall, Idaho. As a Staff Pharmacist, CDR Meagher practiced with other pharmacists in a large ambulatory care setting. During his 3 years of service he acquired essential experience: in pediatric dosage calculations, as a preceptor of pharmacy interns from the Idaho State University College of Pharmacy and as the clinic's Infection Control Officer.

In 2001, CDR Meagher transferred to the JCAHO accredited BOP Federal Correctional Institution (FCI) in Littleton, Colorado. As a Staff Pharmacist at his first federal prison facility, CDR Meagher was able to quickly acclimate to the correctional environment. During his 2 years of service, he acquired significant experience in developing and managing an Anticoagulation Clinic, administering daily Insulin and Medication "pill lines" and providing professional guidance regarding Chemical Substance Detoxification Protocols.

In 2003, CDR Meagher was promoted to Chief Pharmacist at FCI Englewood. As the Chief Pharmacist, CDR Meagher's professional responsibilities expanded to include reviewing national BOP policies and procedures, supervision of Staff Pharmacists, and Chairmanship of the JCAHO New Standards Implementation Committee.

In 2005, CDR Meagher transferred to the AAAHC accredited USCG Kaehler Memorial Medical Clinic located at Air Station Cape Cod. As the Regional Pharmacy Executive at his first military duty station, CDR Meagher was able to again quickly acclimate to the customs and courtesies of the military environment. His new position also involved the

challenging support of a significant number (14) of military land and mobile sea units in his Area of Responsibility (AOR). CDR Meagher quickly mastered the new challenges of his current position and his superb performance was rewarded; he was selected as the USCG Pharmacy Officer of the Year in 2009.

MOST REWARDING USPHS PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

CDR Meagher's deployment to Baton Rouge, Louisiana in the days following Hurricane Katrina's landfall was a rewarding and enriching experience beyond measure. He was able to draw from his extensive experience developed over years of providing care to the underserved in prisons and on reservations, and involvement with the National Disaster Medical System (NDMS). All of this experience came into play during this complex and rapidly evolving disaster. One day CDR Meagher would be providing medication recommendations to a NDMS strike team; then transitioning several days later to recommending chemical detoxification plans for substance abusers and vaccination requirements for evacuees. Pharmaceutical expertise in therapeutic substitution was a useful skill to possess because of limited resources in the disaster area.

OTHER PROFESSIONAL INTERESTS/ACTIVITIES:

CDR Meagher is an active member of the Commissioned Officers Association (COA) of the USPHS, the American Pharmacists Association (APhA), and the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA). CDR Meagher has always enjoyed mentoring students and regularly precepts pharmacy students from several Colleges of Pharmacy. In addition to his regular duties as a PHS Pharmacy Officer, CDR Meagher is a decorated deployment qualified member of several emergency management organizations at the local, state and national level.

By CAPT Vernon Lew